CITY OF LODI
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION
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AGENDA TITLE: Arbor Day Proclamation

MEETING DATE: March **16,201**1

PREPARED BY: Park Superintendent

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Mayor Johnson present a proclamation proclaiming Arbor Day in the City of Lodi.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Staff would like to invite the Mayor, the City Council, and the City Manager, to this year's Arbor Day Celebration and Community Event. This year's event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 2,2011, at Katzakian Park, 2735 W. Turner Road. Participants will be provided tree, mistletoe and recycling education. Tree seedlings, spring cleanup materials and refreshments will be available. Additionally, the community will be invited to help plant three donated trees and help with maintenance on the existing memorial trees located on the property.

This year's celebration is being facilitated by Tree Lodi and funded through a group effort from the Public Works, Parks & Recreation and Electric Utility Departments; Tree Lodi; Lodi Improvement Committee; Waste Management and Lodi Arts Commission.

Arbor Day's Beginnings
On January 4, 1872, Julius Sterling Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday, to be called "Arbor Day," at a meeting of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. It was estimated that more than 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day. Arbor Day has now spread beyond the United States and is observed in many countries of the world.

Lodi has been designated as a Tree City USA for an eighth consecutive year. This designation affords us preference over other communities for grant money for trees or forestry programs and gives us an enhanced public image as a city that cares about its trees. The celebration of Arbor Day gives an opportunity to learn about trees and take positive action to make the world a better place.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not applicable.

FUNDING AVAILABLE: Not applicable.

James M. Rodems
Interim Director Parks and Recreation

JMR\SD:tl

cc: City Attorney

APPROVED: Konradt Bartlam, City Manager